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INDIA.

Report from Bombay—Transactions of Service—Mortality from plague and smallpox—Railway medical inspection for plague.

Acting Asst. Surg. Edward H. Hume reports, May 28, as follows:

Sanitary certificate No. 54 (consular invoice No. 146 of 1904), issued May 26, 1904, to one shipment of 5,000 baskets of onions, consigned by Hajee Oosman Abba, of Bombay, to Fazal Rahim, Manila.

Mortality of Bombay City, week ended May 24, 1904.

	Week ended—		Average of five previous years.
	May 24, 1904.	May 26, 1903.	
Plague attacks	177		
Plague deaths	160	255	212
Plague mortality rate	10.72	17.10	14.20
Smallpox deaths	12	45	18
Cholera deaths	0	1	10
Total deaths	686	793	968
Total mortality rate	45.96	53.13	63.37

Plague in the Bombay Presidency, June, 1903, to April, 1904.

	Attacks.	Deaths.
Total, June, 1903, to February, 1904.....	338,798	251,415
Total, March, 1904 (revised)	47,656	35,734
Total, April, 1904	30,617	22,084
Total, June, 1903, to April, 1904	417,071	309,233

From the above table it will be seen that plague has been more severe in the Presidency than in any previous year. The above totals are for eleven months, while the highest previous totals for twelve months have been, for the year ended June 1, 1903, attacks 393,996, deaths 298,833; June 1, 1902, attacks 281,377, deaths 206,740. It is evident, therefore, that there has been a steady increase in the extent of plague seizures and mortality during the past three years.

An interesting record, published monthly, shows the number of infected places in the Presidency, outside of the three chief cities—Poona, Karachi, and Bombay.

Infected places in the Bombay Presidency, October, 1903, to April, 1904.

October, 1903	1,598
November, 1903	1,887
December, 1903	1,857
January, 1904	1,819
February, 1904	1,858
March, 1904	1,816
April, 1904	1,306

Railway medical inspection for plague.

Ever since the onset of plague there have been certain railway stations where a systematic examination of native passengers has been

conducted in order to prevent the passage beyond that point of persons who may have symptoms suggestive of plague. Whether such inspection pays for the trouble and expense incurred is, in the minds of some, an open question. The system practically amounts to a limited quarantine service, in which the British Government does not as a rule believe. At present there are four such railway stations in the Presidency, as follows:

(1) *Kalyan*.—Thirty-four miles from Bombay, where the lines for Calcutta and Madras divide, the former going to the northeast and the latter to the southeast.

(2) *Gadag*.—Four hundred and sixty-six miles from Bombay to the southeast. It is an important junction on the lines of the Southern Mahratta Railway.

(3) *Poona*.—One hundred and nineteen miles from Bombay to the southeast; one of the largest cities in the presidency and a junction between the lines of two large railway systems.

(4) *Dhond*.—One hundred and sixty-seven miles from Bombay to the southeast. It is a junction between the main line leading to Madras and the branch line passing through Ahmednagar, another important city in the presidency.

The following statement will show the extent of the transactions at these four stations:

Statement of plague cases detected and plague deaths occurring at the four stations in the Bombay Presidency where medical inspections are conducted.

Station.	June, 1903, to December, 1903.		January, 1904.		February, 1904.		March, 1904.		April, 1904.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Kalyan	29	13	13	5	23	8	20	12	13	9
Gadag	32	13	6	2	2	0	1	1	3	2
Poona.....	18	4	5	0	1	3	2	0	3	0
Dhond	19	13	3	3	14	7	3	2	5	1
Total.....	98	43	27	10	40	18	26	15	24	12

Giving a total of 215 cases detected at the four stations in eleven months, with 98 deaths.

The native passengers are examined rapidly for evidences of fever. Suspects are removed from the train and quartered at the station in isolated sheds.

Report from Calcutta—Cholera and plague mortality.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Sprague reports, June 2, as follows:

During the week ended May 28, 1904, the death rate from plague in this city fell off about one-third, to 90, and that from cholera dropped over one-half, to 51. For the Presidency of Bengal the deaths from plague for the week ended May 21 were 349. In India, for the week ended May 7, the deaths from plague were 35,413 out of 41,492 cases. This excessive mortality is owing to the epidemic in the Punjab, where, although there is an apparent beginning of an improvement, the deaths numbered 30,723. No transactions at the port.